Subject: U.S. 1804 dollar

Murphy, John J.
[Hampton, CT]

February 13, 1920

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Mr. John J. Murphy
Hampton
Connecticut. R.F.D.

Dear Sir:

The information from Collier's Encyclopedia in regard to the 1804 dollar is correct in the main, although several specimens of this piece in addition to the two mentioned, have been found since 1882, and I am of the impression that the actual striking of these pieces took place rather later than 1827. The piece you have, however, is evidently, from your description, a medal, not a coin.

The 1804 dollar was similar in type to the dollars regularly issued in the years just preceding and just after 1804, bearing on the obverse a head of Liberty facing to the right, with flowing hair, above head the word "Liberty", behind the head seven stars, in front of it six stars, and below, the date. On the reverse an heraldic eagle with wings outspread, bearing on its breast a shield, and carrying in its mouth a scroll with the words "E pluribus unum". Above eagle's head are thirteen stars, and durrounding the whole the words "United States of America"? As you will see, this does not at all correspond with your piece in appearance.

Apparently your piece must have been of much later issue than 1804, because it refers to Andrew Jackson, who did not come into sufficient prominence to be associated with the other names until a date quite a bit later than 1804.

Very truly yours,

Assistant to Curator.